

Dear Salina Citizens:

The City of Salina is pleased to present to you the Fall 2003 edition of *The Salina Citizen*. We hope this issue not only helps inform you in regard to City projects, but stimulates your interest and participation in local government.

The City Commission and members of the City staff encourage you to ask questions and to make your views known. This is an exciting and challenging time for our community.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to meet the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

Salina City Commission

City Commissioners want to hear from you

Members of the Salina City Commission are always interested in your comments and suggestions on city services and policies.

Each Commissioner welcomes letters and telephone calls. Write them at P.O. Box 736, Salina, KS 67402-0736.

The Commissioners' phone numbers are listed below:

Deborah Divine	823-3447
Alan Jilka	827-0002
Donnie Marrs	823-6002
Monte Shadwick	827-6761
Paul G. Webb	825-4100

Mobile Data Computers *High-Tech Public Safety*

As the officer waits in traffic, he enters license plate numbers from nearby cars into his mobile data computer. Before the light turns green, the computer alerts him that the red pickup has been reported stolen or that the owner of the white van is wanted for a violent crime in California. Currently, obtaining such vital information could take five minutes or more using the police radio. In the near future, Salina police officers will be able to obtain answers to their queries in about ten seconds, thanks to a new mobile data computer system installed in each police vehicle.

In December of 2002, following years of study and careful consideration, the governing bodies of Salina and Saline County approved a request to utilize 911 funds to install mobile computers in Salina Police Department, Salina Fire/EMS, and Saline County Sheriff's Office vehicles. This long awaited and much anticipated project is now nearing implementation.

When fully operational, mobile computing will be extended to the law enforcement mobile office, and will put critical public safety information directly at officers' fin-

to send encrypted messages from car to car, car to group, and car to dispatch. Computer support for officers in the field also opens many new doors for field activities embraced by community based policing. The mobile computer allows the officer on the scene to have the necessary tools such as standard operating procedures, lists of community and business contacts, and lists of support services that can be applied in proactive policing intervention strategies.

Software that provides for Automatic Ve-



Accessing Data



Mobile Data Computer

gertips. This high-tech information pipeline will link all equipped police cruisers to national, state and local law enforcement databases, providing officers in the field with direct access to the Kansas Criminal Justice Information System (KCJIS), Kansas Hot Files, and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). This access includes the ability to check drivers' licenses, motor vehicle registration, arrest warrants, registered sex offenders, and orders of protection. NCIC checks will quickly identify wanted persons, missing children, stolen vehicles, stolen guns, and stolen property.

Mobile computing allows for voiceless dispatch of public safety units when necessary, and provides officers with the ability

hicle Location (AVL) and Field Reporting is scheduled for future installation. AVL will decrease critical response times by ensuring that the closest, appropriate unit is dispatched to emergencies. Field reporting will permit officers to complete reports in the field and transmit the data electronically without the delay associated with completing and processing paper reports.

While there are many more public safety benefits associated with this technology that are beyond the scope of this article, one of the major benefits identified is the reduction in the workload of police dispatchers staffing Salina's 911-dispatch center, enabling them to be even more productive. Mobile data computers will connect patrol cars directly to the information they need - without tying up dispatchers on voice radio. This will free dispatchers and allow them to devote additional time and attention to better handle emergency and other priority calls.

Enhanced public safety, however, is the greatest value added benefit of the mobile computing project. By equipping our emergency personnel with the high-tech tools needed to meet ever increasing public safety demands, we increase their effectiveness and efficiency, which enhances both our emergency and non-emergency response capabilities.

2004 City Budget - *Conservative But Stable*

After months of preparation and discussion, the Salina City Commission adopted the 2004 annual budget on August 11, 2003. The adopted 2004 budget is the result of a multi-month process in which staff worked diligently to identify and meet the community's highest priority needs. This staff work results in the City Manager's proposed budget that is presented to the City Commission in early July. The City Commission then holds several study sessions in which they review the proposed budget. For the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2004, total expenditures are expected to be approximately \$53 million. This compares estimated expenditures of \$52.4 million for 2003. The 2004 budget consists of \$4.7 million for capital improvement expenses, compared to \$16.4 million for capital outlay in 2003. The adopted budget for 2004 emphasizes continuation of our current high service levels, while still maintaining the City's current stabilized property tax levy.

2004 Budget Highlights

- ◆ **Property tax mill levy will remain the same as the previous year. At 24.092 mills, Salina continues to have one of the lowest mill levy rates among comparable cities in Kansas. In fact, the City portion of the overall mill levy has not increased for 22 years.**
- ◆ **All funds of the City of Salina are budgeted to meet established fiscal targets and to comply with Governing Body established City Financial Policies.**
- ◆ **Modest user fee increases in Emergency Medical Services, Utilities and Sanitation will take effect in late 2003.**

Given the "soft" local economy and the state's continuing budget problems, 2004 will be a challenging year. None-

theless, we expect the City to maintain its strong financial position. As always, the focus of this budget is to assure that taxpayers' money is spent wisely and used to invest in the future of our community. As the work of government continues to grow in complexity, we strive to be accessible and responsive. We endeavor to acknowledge the values and needs of citizens, create opportunities to overcome challenges, and enhance life in our community. The adopted budget reflects our commitment to the citizens of Salina to ensure the wise allocation of public resources. With this budget, the City can see rewards from past efforts and a vision of the City's future.

The City of Salina annually prepares a *Budget-in-Brief* document as a short, easy to understand overview of the City's budget. The 2004 *Budget-in-Brief* will be available in late December. For a copy of the 2004 *Budget-in-Brief*, contact the City Manager's Office at (785) 309-5700, or visit the City's website.

The New Municipal Court - Open for Business



In late 2000, the City began efforts to improve physical deficiencies that impacted the overall quality of services provided by the Municipal Court. In August 2003, this vision became a reality, as the new Municipal Court opened for business. Completed at a cost of \$1.5 million, the new facility will provide the following benefits to those that work in and visit the Municipal Court:



Convenient Entryway



New Courtroom

- ✓ Elimination of overcrowded lobby and courtroom;
- ✓ Better separation of defendants, witnesses and victims to improve both safety and convenience;
- ✓ Expanded basement storage area for court files and evidence;

- ✓ A new video/audio system for arraignments. This eliminates the need to transfer prisoners to court from the County jail.
- ✓ Increased traffic safety and parking convenience through a convenient drop-off area, fully accessible parking stalls, and the elimination of dangerous backing movements onto a public street;
- ✓ Greater staff efficiency from a better functional layout;
- ✓ More privacy for attorney-client conversations; and
- ✓ Significant improvements to the aesthet-

tic appearance of the building through landscaping enhancements and a public art element.

The new Municipal Court contains a judge's office and separate public service windows for the court clerk and the city prosecutor's office. The second floor of the law enforcement center will be converted to much-needed space for the police department. This is the area formerly used by the Municipal Court. There is still work remaining on the exterior of the building. This work, including the public art project and a wrought-iron fence between the law enforcement center and the Salina Senior Center, should be complete by the end of October.

Once again, the City would like to express our appreciation to the Saline County Sheriff's Office, the Emergency Management Department and Leisure Years Center for their patience and understanding. The project would not have been successful without the support of those agencies.

Puppets On Parade

Salina Fire Department adds a little "Puppet Pizzazz" to the Salina Public Library's Summer Reading Party!

The Salina Fire Department's Puppet program got its first public gig this summer. The Salina Public Library Children's Department hosted the end-of-summer reading program party August 1. Food, fun and entertainment

filled the air. With the help of two of the Library's teen volunteers, the puppet program was a success.

Three programs were performed teaching children about fire safety including:

- ◆ Crawling Low Under Smoke
- ◆ Don't Play With Matches
- ◆ Stop, Drop and Roll.

About 700 children and parents were clapping and singing along.

The Puppet Program is new to the Fire Department. It is intended to be used for preschool age children. Volunteers are being trained to work the puppets behind the fire house stage. The puppets were part of



Firefighter Frank, Elvis (the hound dog), and Zach have a sing-along with kids about "Crawling Low Under Smoke."



Hangin' with Sparky

a grant that the Salina Fire Department received from the Salina Community Foundation. The fire safety program will be used in local child care facilities. Sparky the fire safe dog dotted the grounds, occasionally giving out fire safety tricks and trinkets.

Water Watch - Help Us Conserve

The City of Salina has undertaken a number of steps throughout the years to ensure a dependable water supply. One particular step was the adoption of a Municipal Water Conservation Plan in 1997. Among other issues, the Plan contains a drought and emergency contingency provision. The City Manager declared a "Water Watch" on June 5, 2003. This is Stage 1 of the City's Water Conservation Plan.

In late July 2003, Governor Sebelius declared a "Drought Watch" in Saline County. The Drought Watch was issued because "there is every indication that the present drought conditions will not abate in the near future" and because "these drought conditions may in fact become more severe." During the summer of 2003, less than average rainfall combined with seasonally hot temperatures increased the potential for both short-term and long-term water supply problems. According to various weather forecasting groups, the long-term outlook continues to predict less than average to average amounts of precipitation for this area.

The lack of rain is having a direct impact on the Smoky Hill River and the City's water wells. For example, both the rate of flow in the Smoky Hill River and the groundwater levels in the City's water wells continue to

decrease, while citywide water usage continues to rise.

Because of these conditions, the City of Salina has established a goal of reducing citywide water usage by 20% in September and October. This is an aggressive goal that will require significant community support. The City of Salina is taking a leadership role in the water usage reduction efforts. City staff has identified high, medium, and low priority areas for watering reductions. Although a few areas remain on a normal watering schedule, approximately 85% of the City facilities are on reduced or discontinued watering schedules.

In addition to reducing water usage, the City is asking our citizens to utilize other water conservation practices. Some simple water conservation practices include:

- ⚡ Watering the lawn before 8 a.m. and after 7 p.m. This will increase the amount of water absorbed by plants and soil and reduce the amount that evaporates.
- ⚡ Avoid fine mist sprinklers as they increase evaporation, and avoid watering during windy weather.
- ⚡ Deep soak the lawn. Water your lawn and garden once a week and allow the water to deep soak down to the

roots.

- ⚡ Check regularly for pipe, toilet, and faucet leaks.
- ⚡ Install water-saving showerheads and toilets.
- ⚡ Make sure you are watering the grass and not the street or sidewalk.
- ⚡ Turn off the water when shaving or brushing your teeth.
- ⚡ Run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads.

We recognize that reductions in water usage will require a sacrifice for our citizens. However, the City is not asking our citizens to do anything that we are not prepared to do ourselves. We are not in any kind of water crisis, but it would be irresponsible of the City to ignore the current situation. Because we do not believe that we are in any kind of crisis level, we are reluctant to impose any type of mandatory limits or restrictions at this point. We believe that it is prudent to continue with voluntary efforts, especially at the City-facility level. At the end of October, we will evaluate what effect the community's voluntary water reduction efforts have had. We are hopeful that the voluntary efforts will work. However, if the voluntary efforts do not work, we will have to reevaluate our strategy for 2004.



ART INFUSION PROGRAM

Engaging students in essential learning skills

The City of Salina Arts and Humanities Commission works in close partnership with Salina USD 305 School District to make artistic connections to lessons in many subject areas. The program, entitled Arts Infusion, engages students in learning essential skills through the arts. These essential skills include listening, patterning, working collaboratively, researching, engaging

imagination, and synthesizing information. This creative approach establishes a context for learning, increasing both relevance and retention.

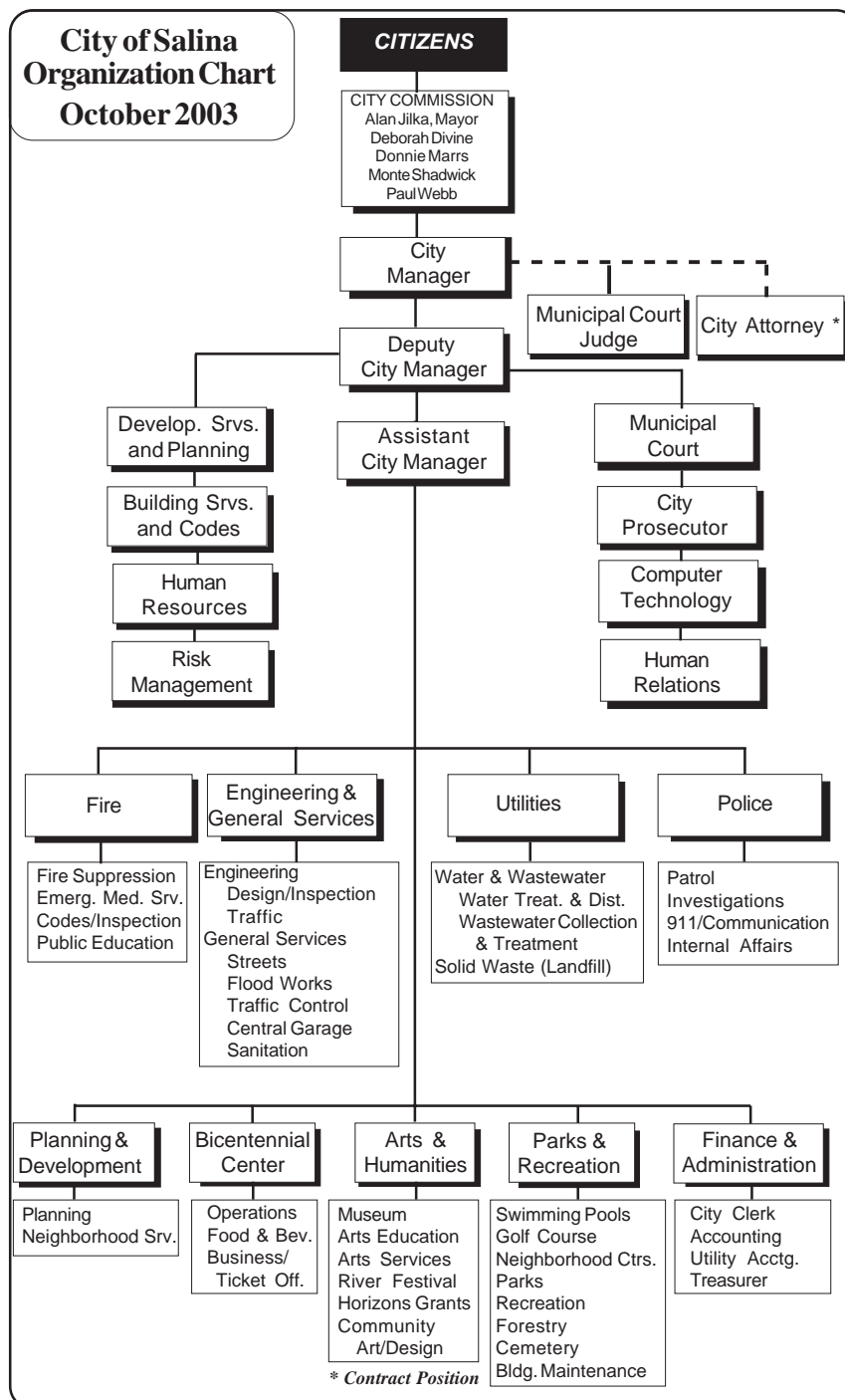
The eleven-year collaboration with USD 305 Salina Public School District to produce the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission's Arts Infusion Program is the result of an ongoing process of community dia-



logue and program evaluation to create curriculum applications which target cultural needs and fulfill shared educational goals. The Arts Infusion Program works with teachers, artists and students to implement art applications within grades 2 through 6, and in secondary schools. In 2003, the Arts Infusion Program attained over 42,000 student contacts, involving 217 artists and 1,382 teachers and family members in USD 305.

A wide variety of local artists--with presentations ranging from characters in history like Coronado and Sacagawea, to explorations in writing, interpretation of literature through drama, and cultural connections made through visual art and storytelling--appear in classrooms. Residency artists come from throughout the nation to share their artistry and teaching skills. Artists in Residence include: storytellers Pricilla Howe and Queen Nur; the cello/guitar duo "Acoustic Eidolon"; actor Tyrees Allen; folk musician Kelly Werts; and dancer Marion Willis.

Significant achievements for 2003 included the implementation of a four-month dance residency, funded by the Earl Bane Foundation, featuring dancer Marion Willis III from Chicago. During the residency, Willis achieved a remarkable number of student contacts, with activities ranging from choreography for the South High production of "West Side Story" to working with the step team at St. John's Baptist Church.



From a Student

to Percussionist Dean Kranzler:

"I am writing to thank you for coming to our classroom and talking to us about the Revolutionary war drums and how important they were because of all the signals they did. I thought it was really interesting that everything the drums and the fifes played was a signal to do something."

5th Grader, Hageman Elementary School

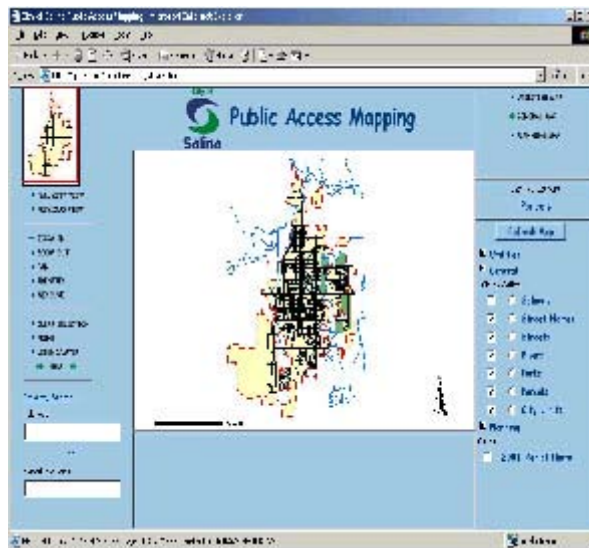
Salina Arts and Humanities Commission's grant application to the Kansas Arts Commission for 2004 was again rated number one in the State of Kansas. The application was cited by the Kansas Arts Commission for the excellence of its partnerships with the school district, with City government, and within the Salina community.

Geographic Information System --

Interactive mapping made easy

In September 2003, the City of Salina announced a change to its official municipal website. In addition to the information about city government, departments and services, there is now a link to the City of Salina's internet mapping web page. From this web page citizens will be able to view interactive, digital maps of the City. While many people are familiar with similar internet mapping sites such as Mapquest, Salina's mapping site has some features that set it apart from other internet mapping sites. To access the mapping website, the user must have a computer connected to the internet and a web browser (Internet Explorer or Netscape). The link to the mapping web page can be found on the City of Salina's official website: <http://www.ci.salina.ks.us>.

Since 1991, city staff has been compiling data about Salina and its infrastructure. That data, along with data from various other sources was stored in digital format using what was then a relatively new computer system called a Geographic Information System or GIS.



takes the paper maps of old, stores them graphically on a computer and combines them with other information about the features shown on the map. Using a GIS, it is possible to search for an address in the City, show the property in the form of a map or aerial photo, and then display information about that property. Information such as the owner, street address, and legal description are available in one convenient place from any internet connected computer.

This mapping website is relatively easy to use. However, some features may be confusing the first time they

are used, so users should not hesitate to use the "help" menu. The website is designed for a wide range of users from non-technical citizens to those citizens more familiar with technical issues, such as architects and engineers.

There are multiple, practical uses for this website. For instance, a citizen may want to print an aerial photo of their home and property for planning purposes or to advertise it for sale. An architect may use the maps to prepare a preliminary site plan for a new home, including information about available utilities. A citizen will be able to use the site to determine who owns a particular piece of property in their neighborhood. A land developer may explore several possible building sites in the City from their office across the country. The Fire Department might use the maps to improve emergency response routes, thereby improving emergency response times. There is a nearly infinite list of practical uses for this new website.

The City of Salina is very excited about the release of this new website. We hope you will find it helpful and easy to use.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

City of Salina job vacancies are advertised in *The Salina Journal* weekly, appearing in the Sunday Edition and can be seen daily on the Government Information Channel (20) and on-line at www.ci.salina.ks.us. Depending on the nature of the position, the City may advertise in other publications.

A City of Salina employment application must be

completed for each position and a resume may be attached to the application. The City generally establishes application deadlines for all advertised positions. The length of the deadline is usually a minimum of ten (10) days.

For more information on City of Salina employment opportunities, please call the Human Resources

Department at (785) 309-5710 or TDD at (785) 309-5747.

The Human Resources Department is located in the City-County Building, 300 West Ash, Room 200. The City offers a generous employment package, including employer retirement contributions, deferred compensation programs and health insurance.



City Receives Award from Kansas Disability Caucus

Representatives from the Kansas Disability Caucus and OCCK, Inc. were present at the September 8, 2003 City Commission meeting to present the City of Salina the Kansas Disability Caucus Community Award. The City of Salina received this award "for their dedicated efforts to improve access and independence for all people with disabilities." Salina was nominated for the award by OCCK, Inc.

The City of Salina has a long and progressive history of improving access for people with disabilities. The

Salina City Commission established the Accessibility Advisory Board in



Mayor Jilka proudly accepts the community award from Sidney Hays, OCCK representative.

late 1989, even before the Americans with Disabilities Act became a formal law. The Accessibility Advisory Board advises the City Commission on matters relating to accessibility. In addition to a formal advisory board, the 2004 budget contains a significant amount of money for accessibility projects such as improving sidewalks and installing curb ramps.

The City strongly believes in providing accessible services for all citizens and was proud to accept the Community Award from the Kansas Disability Caucus.

Curbside Recycling - 2004 Pilot Program

12 month test period planned

The Salina City Commission has given preliminary approval for a limited residential trial program involving curbside collection of recyclables at up to 1,000 Salina homes. The program would be operated as a service of the City's Sanitation Division and would be open only to customers currently being served by the City for residential trash pickup.

The City will be selecting households from a listing of those interested in volunteering for this pilot program. If your household is eligible (on City Sanitation) and interested, you may wish to apply as noted in this article. Expressions of interest will be accepted by the City until Friday, November 14, 2003, with notifications by year-end 2003.

Households will not be selected on a "first come/first served" basis. City staff will sort the applications by trash pickup day, and attempt

to conduct the program throughout the City. If more than 1,000 applications are received, or if too many are received for one area, a random drawing process may be used.

Apply for the pilot program no later than November 14, 2003 by:

- (1) Applying over the internet at www.ci.salina.ks.us (This method saves the City money.)
or
- (2) Complete and mail the postage-paid postcard included with this newsletter.

The pilot program costs will be absorbed by the City's Sanitation and Solid Waste Funds. No general tax dollars will be used, and the volunteer households will not be charged during the pilot program. However, in lieu of a user fee, participating households will

agree to actively participate and provide feedback on their experiences and opinions during the one-year trial program. This information will be used by the City, along with cost and budget analysis, to help determine whether and how a more permanent voluntary "fee for service" curbside recycling program could be implemented during 2005.

The pilot program would involve the City collecting residential recyclables at the curbside on the regular trash day, with the customer using an 18-gallon container. Those recyclables will be taken to Images Recycling Center in downtown Salina for processing.

City government will keep the community informed by regular status reports during the pilot program. Our goal is to collect excellent, factual information on costs and benefits, to help determine the future direction of recycling in Salina.

Capital Improvement Program

Planning for Salina's Future

One of the most important tasks undertaken by the Salina City Commission is to prioritize major capital improvement projects. Each year, the Salina City Commission previews major capital projects for the next five years. An in-depth review of the City's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan is planned for Fall 2003. The Capital Improvement Program is an integral part of our local government and generally consists of larger, higher profile projects that have a significant future impact on the daily lives of our citizens. For the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2004, the capital improvements budget was adopted at \$4.7 million.

2004 is scheduled to be a "light" year for capital improvement projects and no new City/KDOT projects are planned. However, numerous 2003

major projects will still be under construction in 2004.

Capital improvement projects scheduled for 2004 include:

- A storm drainage project south of Schilling Road
- A waterline loop project from Magnolia Road south on Ohio Street to Schilling, then west to the railroad tracks.
- Traffic signal upgrades.
- Water and Wastewater system enhancements.
- \$1 million in contracted street maintenance.
- New sidewalks and ramps



Please take time to fill-out the enclosed C.I.P. suggestion card to let the City Commission know your opinion on future capital improvement projects.

Although the Salina City Commission will ultimately make the decision on the capital improvements program, citizen input is a vital part of the decision-making process. Constructive suggestions from interested citizens help to give City Commissioners an understanding of what improvements the community would like to see. Citizen input will allow the City of Salina to prioritize important projects for the future of Salina.

For more information about the Capital Improvement Program, call the City Manager's Office at 309-5700.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS



Each month, the City of Salina receives many inquiries about installing traffic signals to reduce speeding in a particular area. Although this is understandable, research shows that there are usually more effective ways to reduce speeding. The primary purpose of traffic signals is to assign right-of-way at an intersection. A well designed and installed traffic signal installation will provide for orderly traffic movement, reduce certain types of accidents, permit motorists to safely cross or enter the other traffic stream, and allow safe pedestrian movement.

The City has two types of traffic signals: fixed-time signals and traffic actuated signals. Fixed-time signals are set for average conditions and change at predetermined time

intervals. Traffic actuated signals detect vehicles (including bicycles) and adjust the timing to optimize traffic flow at the intersection. Most of the new traffic signal systems in Salina are traffic-actuated signals.

The City of Salina Department of Engineering makes a special effort to ensure that traffic signals meet the required standards and improve the safety of traffic flow within the City. Before installing a traffic signal at an intersection, the Department of Engineering thoroughly examines:

- ◆ The amount of vehicle and pedestrian traffic in each direction.
- ◆ The need to provide gaps in traffic on the major traffic street so that side street vehicles and

pedestrians may cross.

- ◆ Special conditions such as hills and curves.
- ◆ The accident history of the intersection.

The City has installed numerous traffic signals in the past few years. These signals are installed using various funding sources, including gasoline tax dollars, development fees, and special assessments. A new traffic signal costs \$65,000 to \$100,000 and the installation of traffic signals must be carefully considered. If you have questions, requests, or suggestions concerning traffic issues, please contact the Department of Engineering and General Services at 826-7290.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENTS: BETTER RESPONSE

The Salina Fire Department is developing its Hazardous Material Response Team to improve its response capabilities. In conjunction with the State of Kansas Fire Marshall's Office, the department hosted a hazardous materials technician class this past year. The department sent 23 of its personnel to this class. After successful



Firefighter instructional class on the decontamination shelter.

completion of the technician class, students were presented with the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) certification.

In addition to the hazardous materials class, the department received several grants through the United States Department of Justice. These grants allowed the department to purchase hazardous material encapsulated suits and intricate monitoring equipment for sensing the presence of a hazardous material. A major equipment acquisition for the department was a 3-line

decontamination shelter. This shelter gives the Fire Department the capability of decontaminating ambulatory and non-ambulatory persons. The department demonstrated the capability of the decontamination shelter to the City/County Bio Terrorism Committee on September 19th at Fire Station #1.

In the future, the Fire Department hopes to further upgrade its ability to combat hazardous material threats by purchasing a hazardous material response vehicle. The department is working on specifications and funding for a hazardous material response vehicle. This vehicle would possess compartment storage space for all equipment and an Incident Command Center.

We're at Your Service

In order to serve you better, City staff maintains a computerized Citizen Service Request (CSR) system. This system assists staff in expediting and effectively responding to citizen concerns.

If you have questions or service requests, please contact the City Manager's office at 309-5700. You may also send questions or requests via our e-mail link on the City of Salina's Official Municipal Website: www.ci.salina.ks.us

Policy of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

The City of Salina does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs or activities.

The Deputy City Manager has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in section 35-107 of the Department of Justice regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided thereunder, are available from the ADA coordinator.

For information, contact:

ADA Coordinator

Deputy City Manager

City of Salina

300 W. Ash

Salina, Kansas 67401

Phone: 309-5700

(TDD) 309-5747

Articles were written by city staff, with design and editing by Doug Gerber and LaDonna Bennett. Questions/Comments? Call the City Manager's office at (785) 309-5700.

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